

ABSTRACT

Apparatus and methods are provided for improving the quality of streaming video delivered to a display device. A current video signal segment is encoded for subsequent decoding at the display device. As part of the encoding step, an estimate
5 is made of the time required for decoding the video signal segment at the display device. If the estimated time exceeds a predetermined decoder time period, either (i) the current video signal segment is re-encoded such that it can be decoded within the decoder time period, or (ii) a subsequent video signal segment is encoded to enable decoding thereof without reference to the current segment.

November 6, 2001